

R E M A R K S

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because, as alleged by the Examiner, reference characters "1" and "6" have both been used to designate a dial plate and a film which is cover the dial plate. A proposed drawing correction is required.

Claims 1-2, 4-10 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention as stated in the Office Action. Claims 1-2, 4-10 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite on the grounds set forth in the Office Action.

Claims 11-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Pasco, US Patent No. 4,323,951, in view of Ogura et al, US Patent No. 5,915,822 and Abileah et al, US Patent No. 5,629,784 for the reasons stated in the Office Action.

Reconsideration of these rejections is requested respectfully in view of the amendment and argument herein.

The objection to the drawing is traversed respectfully for the following reason. In the present specification (page 5 at lines 10-11) it is stated that the dial plate 1 has an optical waveguide 7 which is covered with a film 6. The lead line for

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reference numeral 1 is an arrow which, by convention, points generally to an object (in this case, the dial plate) having a plurality of components. The lead lines for reference numerals 6 and 7 each have a dot on the end of the respective lead line and contact respectively the film 6 and the waveguide 7. This application claims priority in a German patent application and, under the provisions of the PCT, formalities in the German (or other signatory to the PCT) practice are accepted in the USA. If the drawing (Fig. 1) presented an exploded view, then the reference numeral 1 would be attached to a bracket enclosing the parts of the dial plate. However, no exploded view is present in Fig. 1 and, accordingly, it is urged that the presentation in Fig. 1 meets the drawing requirements of the US patent practice.

With respect to the rejections under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs, it is noted that claim 1 describes the "display" as comprising a liquid crystal screen (combination of panels 8 and 9, specification on page 5 at line 16) which, in turn, has a polarizing filter located on a front surface thereof. The dial plate 7 comprises an optical waveguide 7 with a film 6 on a front surface of the waveguide. In order to clarify the description in claim 1, and to conform the description of claim 1 to the description of the specification, claim 1 is amended to state that the dial plate has an optical waveguide covered with a film. The claim is amended further at lines 12-13 by changing the term "dial plate" to "optical waveguide". This corrected language shows that the panel 8 (Fig. 2) of the liquid crystal screen, at the front surface thereof, lines up with the front surface of the optical waveguide 7. This is in accord with the sentence linking

pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, and is believed to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112 for claim 1 and its depending claims.

The foregoing rejections under 35 USC 112 for claim 16 are traversed respectfully. Claim 16 defines (in the paragraph from line 3 to line 8) a display comprising a liquid crystal screen with a front polarizing filter. Claim 16 also defines a dial assembly constituted of a dial plate with a film thereon. The claim then states, beginning at line 9, that a front surface of the display (the polarizing filter) is arranged in the same plane as a front surface of the dial assembly (the film). The term "dial assembly" does not appear in claim 1. The above-noted statement of claim 16 agrees with the description in Fig. 1. Accordingly, claim 16 is believed to be free of rejection under 35 USC 112.

The rejections under 35 USC 103 are believed to have been overcome by the following argument.

Pasco (US 4,323,951) teaches a display unit having a dial plate 17 and a display 16 located in a <sup>cut</sup>out-out of the dial plate, wherein the display is arranged in the same plane as a front surface of the front of the dial plate to form therewith a single component with a continuous surface. There is no disclosure of a film with dial markings located on a front surface of the dial plate facing the observer and, also, there is no disclosure of a front polarizing filter located on a front surface of the display.

If the liquid crystal display disclosed in Abileah (US 5,629,784) would be used in the display unit of Pasco, a film with dial markings located on the front surface of the dial plate would be missed, so that, contrary to the present invention with Abileah the polarizing filter of the liquid crystal screen cannot be arranged in the same plane as a film of the dial assembly.

Ogura (US 5915,822) shows clearly in Figure 3 that there is a dial plate 18 having no film with dial markings located thereon. Furthermore the LCD is located in a plane behind the plane of the dial plate 17. It is not known whether the LCD has a front polarizer or not. But, contrary to the present invention, in Ogura if there would be a front polarizer, that polarizer would be arranged in a plane different from the plane of a film which would have to be arranged on the dial plate.

Furthermore, the LCD display of Ogura (Figs. 2, 3 and 7) is spaced apart from the front surface of the dial plate 18 and the light transmitting board 13 (column 3 at lines 36 and 14) by the light reflecting surface 26 (column 5 at line 45). Ogura therefore teaches away from the claimed feature of the continuous surface in the present invention. To emphasize this distinction, claim 11 has been amended in the last paragraph thereof to state that the front polarizing filter connects to the dial plate film so as to form a single component with a continuous surface. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 11 and its dependent claims are allowable.


Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the

claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made"

In the event there are further issues remaining the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone attorney to reach agreement to expedite issuance of this application.

Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this amendment is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, enter this amendment, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted,  
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DISPLAY UNIT  
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 7, 11 and 12 as follows.

1. (six times amended) A display unit,  
suitable for a vehicle, comprising:

a dial assembly and a display located in  
a region of the dial assembly, the display comprising a liquid  
crystal screen with a front polarizing filter located on a front  
surface of the liquid crystal screen facing an observer, the dial  
assembly comprising a dial plate having an optical waveguide  
covered with [and] a film with dial markings located on a front  
surface of the dial plate facing the observer, wherein

the front surface of the liquid crystal  
screen is arranged in the same plane as <sup>the</sup> the front surface of the  
[dial plate] optical waveguide, the front surface of the liquid  
crystal screen contacting the front surface of the [dial plate]  
optical waveguide to form therewith a continuous surface; and

the polarizing filter of the display is  
arranged in the same plane as the film of the dial assembly.

7. (four times amended) The display unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the [dial plate comprises an] optical waveguide [which] abuts an edge of the display; and

wherein the front panel of the display is connected to the optical waveguide so as to form a single component.

11. (seven times amended) A display unit, suitable for a vehicle, comprising:

a dial assembly and a display located in a region of the dial assembly, the display comprising a liquid crystal screen with a front polarizing filter located in front of a front surface of the liquid crystal screen facing an observer, the dial assembly comprising a dial plate and a film with dial markings located on a front surface of the dial plate facing the observer, wherein the polarizing filter of the display is arranged in the same plane as the film of the dial assembly, and

wherein, the front polarizing filter of the liquid crystal screen connects to the dial plate film so as to form a single component with a continuous surface, and there is an empty space behind the front polarizing filter.

12. (twice amended) The display unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein said empty space [saves] serves as a lightproof channel.